(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the major causes behind the eruption of communal violence, the number of deaths, if any and the estimated loss of public and private property as a result thereof and also the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Maharashtra, a writ petition was filed by Shiv Sena in the High Court challenging the Mayoral election at Aurangabad which was set for hearing on 17th May, 1988. However, the hearing was postponed by the High Court and a group of Shiv Sainiks on the way back from the Court had heated exchanges with a sugar-cane juice vender which led to cases of stabbing, arson and stone pelting. Subsequently, the communal violence spread to the rural areas of the district like Bidkin and Paithan necessitating police firing. In the communal violence at Aurangabad on 17th May, 1988, 11 persons were killed and 182 received injuries, out of which four persons were killed and four persons were injured in police firing. Property worth Rs. 29.55 lakhs (Public Rs. 0.04 lakhs—Private 29.51 lakhs) was destroyed. In the communal violence at Paithan on 19th May, 1988, seven persons were killed and 12 were injured. There was a loss of private property worth Rs. 6.85 lakhs.

Immediately on eruption of communal violence, the Union Home Minister discussed the matter with the Chief Minister, Maharashtra and both of them visited the riot affected areas. The State Government rushed additional police re-inforcement and the communal situation was brought under control. Various measures to the State Government and it is hoped that a climate of communal harmony would prevail. None-the-less, a close vigil is being maintained on the communal situation in the State as a whole.

Decline of population of swamp Deer

782. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poputlon of swamp deer species has declined in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that hunters often shoot deer on the pretext of killing vermins, wild boars and porcupines; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop the killing of deer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir, not in recent years.

(b) No such reports have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Menacing effects of drugs

783. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out that the future of the country is endangered due to the rising trend of drug addiction and also due to the induction of deadly drugs like smack and heroin into country by external forces which want to destabilise India; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action plan prepared by Government to check drug trafficking and also the details of the directives issued to the States to